

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement**Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended**For Six Month Period Ending 02/29/2012

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No.

Vision Americas L.L.C.

5907

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

1150 K Street NW, Ste. 1411
Washington, DC 200051901 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Ste 901
Washington, DC 20006

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

(a) If an individual:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

(b) If an organization:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.Yes ☐ No ☐If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Moroccan American Center for Policy

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes ☐ No ☐

Exhibit B⁴ Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Moroccan American Center for Policy- Vision Americas contacted members of Congress and their staffers on issues related to U.S.- Morocco relations including human rights developments in the region, Morocco's role in the Middle East Peace Process and the Western Sahara issue. In addition, the registrant provided and continues to provide strategic advice on the aforementioned topics.

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

Vision Americas communicates with various principals and staff of the Congress and Executive Branch in order to educate them on Morocco - U.S. Relationships in order to garner support for Moroccan initiatives set forth by MACP.

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activity" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
09/2011	MACP	Retainer	20,000
10/2011	MACP	Retainer	20,000
11/2011	MACP	Retainer	20,000
12/2011	MACP	Retainer	20,000

80,000

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
09/2011	Jose Cardenas	Work on behalf of MACP	5,000
10/2011	Jose Cardenas	Work on behalf of MACP	5,000
11/2011	Jose Cardenas	Work on behalf of MACP	5,000
12/2011	Jose Cardenas	Work on behalf of MACP	5,000

20,000

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☒No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
11/2011	2,000	Douglas for Senate	Washington, DC
11/2011	2,000	Mitch McConnell	Washington, DC
02/27/2012	2,500	Romney for President, Inc.	Washington, DC

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Moroccan American Center for Policy

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- ☐ Radio or TV broadcasts ☐ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Motion picture films ☒ Letters or telegrams
☐ Advertising campaigns ☒ Press releases ☒ Pamphlets or other publications ☒ Lectures or speeches
☐ Other (specify) _____

Electronic Communications

- ☒ Email
☐ Website URL(s): _____
☐ Social media websites URL(s): _____
☐ Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- ☒ Public officials ☐ Newspapers ☐ Libraries
☒ Legislators ☐ Editors ☐ Educational institutions
☒ Government agencies ☐ Civic groups or associations ☐ Nationality groups
☐ Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes ☒ No ☐

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)

March 30, 2012

/s/ Roger Noriega

eSigned

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

09/20/11	Roger Noriega	Staffer Erika Luth	Email regarding meeting or phone call request with Congressman Austria regarding State Foreign Ops bill
09/20/11	Roger Noriega	Staffer Jennings Palmer	Email regarding meeting or phone call request with Congressman Cole regarding State Foreign Ops bill
09/20/11	Roger Noriega	Staffer Carlie Christensen	Email regarding meeting or phone call request with Chairwoman Granger regarding State Foreign Ops bill
10/12/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Eric Foss	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997
10/12/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jason Lawrence	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997
10/12/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Adrielle Churchill	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997
10/12/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Becky Cole	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997
10/12/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Meyer Seligman	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997

10/27/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Eric Foss	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997	Hudson New York Article "Moroccan Exceptionalism" By Richard Miniter.
10/27/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Adrielle Churchill	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997	Hudson New York Article "Moroccan Exceptionalism" By Richard Miniter.
10/27/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Myer Seligman	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997	Hudson New York Article "Moroccan Exceptionalism" By Richard Miniter.
10/27/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jason Lawrence	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997	Hudson New York Article "Moroccan Exceptionalism" By Richard Miniter.
10/27/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Becky Cole	Email regarding an amendment being offered that will zero out funding for Morocco's Millennium Challenge Account \$700 million compact signed in 1997	Hudson New York Article "Moroccan Exceptionalism" By Richard Miniter.
10/28/11	Roger Noriega	Staffer Paul Grove	Email regarding changing some of the Leahy language in the Foreign Ops Bill	
11/08/11	Roger Noriega	Staffer Ethan Weber	Email regarding meeting request to update Chairman Rogers' team on security situation in North Africa.	
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer David Stern	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.

11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Lauren Williams	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Ben Schultz	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Natalie Farr	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer David Brewster	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Pat Tully	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jeremy Harrell	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Annwoods Hawks	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Stephen Chandler	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Beth Webb	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Christin O'Brien	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Derek Dufresne	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.

11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Adam Hepburn	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer John Dutton	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Daniel Burgess	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Dan Sadlosky	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Courtney Temple	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Anna Bartlett	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Annie Wilcox	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Lisa Bos	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Mischa Fisher	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jimmy Thomas	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Bryan Wood	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.

11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Elise Conner	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Michael Essington	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Alex Etchen	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Andrew Levert	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Kristen Jackson	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Nien Su w/Rep. Donald Manzullo	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer JT Jezierski	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Andy Polk w/Rep. Myrick	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Renee Latterelle	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Kyle Glenn	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Meyer Seligman	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.

11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Patrick Large	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Ryan Jarmula	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Caitlin Poling	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Patrick Velliky	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Frank Barnett	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Ethan Weber	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Carrie Haas	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jessica Moore	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Stephen Vermillion	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Elise Gately	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jennifer Shirley	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.

11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Scott Tranter	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Cassi Sonn	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jim Dolbow	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Karen Williams	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jesse Walls	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Luke Kenworthy	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
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11/17/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Lauren Sheehan	Email regarding the announcement of the new Congressional Morocco Caucus.	Letter regarding joining the Morocco Caucus signed by Rep. Michael Grimm, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and Rep. Bennie Thompson.
11/30/11	Roger Noriega	Staffer Lester Munson	Email regarding a request for a statement on Morocco's constitutional reforms	
11/30/11	Roger Noriega	Staffer Ethan Weber	Email regarding a request for a statement on Morocco's constitutional reforms	

11/30/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Stephen Vermillion	Email about a congratulatory statement from David Rivera regarding the recent elections in Morocco.
12/02/11	José Cárdenas	Staffer Arthur Estopinan	Email regarding possibility of adding a line to the congressional resolution congratulating Tunisia for its recent constitutional assembly election as well as Morocco, which just celebrated its first ever parliamentary election after major constitutional reforms.
12/5/2011	José Cárdenas	Staffer Arthur Estopinan	Email regarding follow up on statement
12/5/2011	José Cárdenas	Staffer Arthur Estopinan	Email regarding response to Arthur about following up on statement
12/8/2011	José Cárdenas	Staffer Arthur Estopinan	Email regarding follow up on statement
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer David Stern	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Lisa Williams w/Rep. Faleomavaega	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jim Hall	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Lauren Williams	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco

02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Ben Schultz	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Eric Gustafson	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Natalie Farr	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Pat Tully	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jeremy Harrell	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Annwoods Hawks	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Stephen Chandler	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Beth Webb	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Christin O'Brien	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Derek Dufresne	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Adam Hepburn	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco

02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer John Dutton	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Daniel Burgess	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Dan Sadlosky	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Courtney Temple	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Anna Bartlett	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Annie Wilcox	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Lisa Bos	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Mischa Fisher	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jimmy Thomas	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Bryan Wood	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Elise Conner	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco

02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Michael Essington	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Alex Etchen	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Andrew Levert	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Kristin Jackson	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Nien Su w/Rep. Donald Manzullo	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer JT Jezierski	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Andy Polk w/Rep. Myrick	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Renee Latterelle	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Kyle Glenn	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Meyer Seligman	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Patrick Large	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco

02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Ryan Jarmula	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Caitlin Poling	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Patrick Velliky	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Frank Barnett	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Ethan Weber	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Carrie Haas	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jessica Moore	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Elise Gately	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Stephen Vermillion	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Jennifer Shirley	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Scott Tranter	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco

02/28/12	José Cárdenas	Staffer Cassi Sonn	Email regarding a meeting request to discuss recent political developments in Morocco
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<http://www.hudson-ny.org/2536/moroccan-exceptionalism>

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Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Moroccan Exceptionalism

By Richard Minitier

We are seeing, across the coast of North Africa, the hopes of the "Arab Spring" dissolving into sporadic mob violence, often against religious minorities (Egypt); civil war (Libya); the rise of Islamist militants (Egypt, Libya and perhaps Tunisia); and unrestrained repression (Algeria). **The sole exception on the North African coast is Morocco.**

In **Morocco**, we see no violence, no compulsory rise of extremists, and no police repression. Instead we see spirited political debate and, set for this year, a string of elections. The latest, scheduled for November 25, will select -- for the first time in the history of the region -- the first parliament fully empowered to govern an Arab state.

Why is **Morocco** the exception? Morocco is the exception in North Africa because its ruling class did not defy the will of the people, but channelled it into practical political change.

The country was already in the process of a 15-year democratic transition when the Arab Spring movements arrived. With the accession to the throne of **King Mohammed VI** in July 1999, the pace toward full democratization accelerated. Over the past decade, elections were held for a bicameral parliament, the powers of which gradually grew. Some 35 political parties emerged to promote candidates for local and national offices. Further, in 2011, when the "**Movement of February 20**" — **Morocco's** version of Arab Spring — produced large and largely peaceful demonstrations, Morocco was already on its way toward democracy. Faced with demonstrations, the king wisely decided to accelerate reforms.

King Mohammed VI announced, on March 9, 2011, that a new, more democratic constitution would be drafted and presented to the people to be voted on in a referendum. When the constitution was unveiled, it represented a genuinely radical step forward: a directly-elected chief of government; an elected bicameral parliament with effective control over taxes, budget and all other domestic issues; consolidated rights for women; and rights for religious minorities, including Christians and Jews. The proposed constitution pointedly ended a cultural debate by putting the language Amazigh on par with Arabic in schools and other government institutions. The constitution was passed overwhelmingly in July.

Now the political map of **Morocco** will be remade, not by violence, but by votes. Some fear that the November 25 elections will produce a radical Islamist government -- as Algeria's 1992 elections, which sparked more than a decade of bloody civil war -- threatened to do. According to a confidential analysis from a reliable American source, however, the elections in Morocco are likely to produce a much happier outcome.

While **Morocco** has some 35 legally constituted parties, an examination of every parliamentary election since 2002 shows that a dozen of them win virtually all of the votes and parliamentary

seats. In the 2009 elections, for example, the top dozen parties won 88% of the vote and 93% of the seats. The other 23 parties won fewer votes and fewer seats because they sprang into existence only during the approach of an election. Between elections, these minor parties did not appear in the press, hold rallies or otherwise announce their existence to voters.

The dominant dozen political parties are well-organized, hold regular meetings throughout the country and use the media to argue their views. The "dominant dozen" should extend their share of the votes and parliamentary seats again — winning roughly 90% of the vote and 96% of the seats this November. As for other parties, the National Rally of Independents (RNI), should command at least 12% of the vote. The Istiqlal Party (PI), which currently leads the government, is projected to reach 11%, depending on voter turnout. And the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), a 2008 merger of five political groups, is, at 10%, predicted to come in third. The Islamist party, the Party for Justice and Development (PJD), is not expected to enlarge its share of the parliament's lower house -- placing it, behind the RNI, IP and PAM with 9% of the vote.

Despite its charismatic leaders and ample funds, the Islamist PJD remains at its 2007 ceiling because of a number of factors: Its base of support is narrow and competitive. The Islamist party attracts mainly young, educated, middle-class city dwellers. The middle class is itself small compared to the whole of the Moroccan electorate, and the PJD, failing to command even a majority of the middle class, has to fight for votes from other minor Islamist and, ironically, Socialist parties.

Oddly, the average PJD voter indeed looks a lot like the voters for the Moroccan Socialist Party (USFP). Although both draw on an young and educated base, urban voters frequently switch between these seemingly sharp alternatives, the Islamists and the Socialists. The Islamists have almost no support in rural areas. The PJD has not made a major investment there and consequently wins almost no votes. Meanwhile, the RNI, the PI and PAM have won over local and tribal leaders, and have devoted significant attention to rural issues. As a result, the RNI, PI and PAM harvest the vast majority of rural votes.

Finally, other parties have been stealing the PJD's best ideas. While the PJD is largely powerless in opposition, the parties in power have focused on issues that once made the PJD attractive, especially in the areas economic reform and job creation. It seems that the November elections will simply underline the trends of the past decade. The RNI, the PI and the PAM look better positioned to compete for a poll position. Which party, among these, will be able to form a coalition to shape a government remains to be seen. As far as the PJD is concerned, however, it is far from being the overwhelming political force.

Richard Minitier is a best-selling author, investigative journalist, terrorism expert, author of two New York Times best selling books, "Losing Bin Laden" and "Shadow War".

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Join the Morocco Caucus

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Congressional Morocco Caucus for the 112th Congress. The Morocco Caucus will be a bipartisan group of Members committed to deepening the economic and strategic relationship between the United States and Morocco.

As you know, the Kingdom of Morocco has demonstrated its friendship and loyalty to the United States consistently since our independence. Morocco has been a vital, Muslim ally in North Africa. They continue to be a vital strategic friend that shares our values and aspirations.

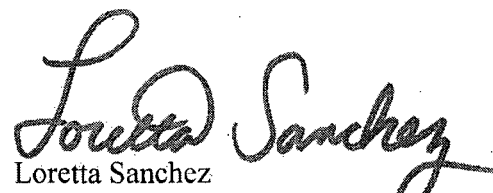
Most recently, in the midst of the Arab spring, Morocco held a national referendum to revise their Constitution and institute far-reaching democratic reforms. Morocco has long been a strong partner on security issues, a strong trading partner for US business, and is a regional leader on democratic reforms.


With the recent events in the region, US relations with Morocco have taken on a renewed sense of urgency and strategic importance. We hope that you will join the Caucus so that we can work together on these critical issues. Now is the time to signal our strong support for Morocco and work together to ensure the success of their democratic aspirations.

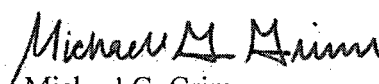
If you would like to become a member of the Congressional Morocco Caucus please contact Miguel Mendoza (Diaz-Balart) at Miguel.Mendoza@mail.house.gov, Annie Yea (Sanchez) at Annie.Yea@mail.house.gov, Chris Berardini (Grimm) at Chris.Berardini@mail.house.gov, or Lanier Avant (Thompson) at Lanier.Avant@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Mario Diaz-Balart
Co-Chair


Loretta Sanchez
Co-Chair


Bennie Thompson
Co-Chair


Michael G. Grimm
Co-Chair

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